

The Baptist Record

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Southern Baptists helping Vietnamese farmers with crops

PHU LUONG DISTRICT, Vietnam (BP) — Tea farmer Nguyen Van Rau grows more tea these days — thanks to Southern Baptists.

Foreign missionaries are still barred from Vietnam. But as Americans slowly return to do business in this land where they once fought a war, they'll find Southern Baptists already there — helping thousands of farmers improve their agricultural output.

The implications are significant in the impoverished, largely rural nation of 73 million people — the second-largest population in Southeast Asia.

The Southern Baptist assistance comes from the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center — an agricultural development center in the Philippines — via a program coordinated by Cooperative Services International (CSI), a Southern Baptist aid agency.

The program began in 1989, when veteran Southern Baptist agriculturist Harold Watson of Brooklyn, visited Vietnam from his base in the Philippines. He went to discuss ways the nation could expand food production and improve the lot of farmers scraping out a living from poor-quality land.

Watson's "SALT" (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) program, which converts denuded, useless hillsides into food-producing farms, has been adapted to many areas throughout Asia. In 1985 Watson won the Ramon Magsaysay Award — Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize — as recognition for his contributions to agriculture.

Watson visited Agricultural University No. 3 near Thai Nguyen City in Vietnam's northern Bac Thai Province. There he met with agricultural teachers to

discuss how area farmers could grow more food. Later in 1989 Cooperative Services International joined with another humanitarian agency, Bread for the World, to send 20 Vietnamese farmers and agriculturists to the Rural Life Center.

The farmers quickly saw how easily they could adapt the SALT program to small farms in hilly areas back home. Watson showed how planting rows of fast-growing, nitrogen-fixing trees on the natural contours of a hillside could enrich soil, prevent erosion, and develop farmable terraces.

So far, tea farmer Nguyen has no idea who Jesus Christ is, much less who Southern Baptists are. But he does know that an American has helped him grow more tea.

For now in Vietnam, that's a good start.



BETTER IDEAS AT WORK — Vietnamese tea farmer Nguyen Van Rau (center) and Southern Baptist worker Jeff Palmer (left) survey Nguyen's hillside tea farm in Bac Thai Province, Vietnam. At right is Nguyen Huu Hong, deputy director for Agricultural University No. 3's agricultural and forest research department. The university sent staff members to the Mindanao Baptist Rural Life Center in the Philippines to study how Bac Thai farmers can improve production on sloped land. They came back and taught the techniques to hundreds of farmers, including Nguyen Van Rau. The project was coordinated by Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization. (BP photo by Warren Johnson)

Mississippians join trip yielding 4,700 professions of faith

By Tammi Ledbetter

Five Mississippians were among 80 Americans who participated in a 10-day mission trip in Russia that led to 4,782 professions of faith. Among those involved in the June 22-July 6 project were Greg Martin of Long Beach, Jerry and Landis McBride of Baldwin, and Jerry and Faith Nance of Pearl.

Seventeen Russian Baptists from other areas joined in the work of the American team which ministers to 22 local churches.

Over 6,000 copies of the Scripture were distributed as well as 5,000 copies of Christian literature.

"As I've read the testimonies of the Americans who went, many of them said, 'My life will never be the same,'" reported Gary Baird of the Dallas-based International Crusades.

For Jerry and Landis McBride, members of East Mt. Zion Church, the week gave them a greater faith in what God can do, she said. "He really took care of

us and answered our prayers," she related. "I felt the presence of God everywhere we went."

After seeing so many people come to Christ, McBride said she is more comfortable sharing her faith. "I saw many children saved and it just touched my heart to think that these kids can serve the Lord for the rest of their lives."

Jerry and Faith Nance of Pearl were encouraged by the opportunity to help equip the four Russians who accompanied them in

personal witnessing. "At the beginning of our week with them they believed they only needed to share their testimonies and not invite their people to know Christ," Nance said. "But by the end of the week, when they saw the results of inviting their people to Christ now, I know that they were moved and realized the need."

Greg Martin, pastor of Commission Road Church in Long Beach, was involved in preaching

and personal evangelism. To gather a crowd for street preaching, he used his Polaroid camera to take pictures which he then gave away. Once the crowd built up, he told them he'd take more after sharing the gospel message.

Martin compared the opportunity to share his faith in Russia to fishing in an aquarium. "The people are more hungry to be saved than anywhere I've experienced."

Ledbetter writes for the INDIANA BAPTIST.

MTV: More than music

Most parents believe they know how far pop music has degraded since the days of the Fab Four, but they're in for a big shock unless they've joined their kids for a few hours of MTV. So says Bob DeMoss, youth culture specialist at Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Colo. DeMoss, in the cover story for Focus's August 1994 flagship magazine, reports the music channel's claim to be a cultural force is true, and parents shouldn't lightly dismiss MTV. The round-the-clock rock video purveyor reaches well over twice the international audience CNN does, DeMoss points out. Programming routinely features rape, voyeurism, homosexuality, lesbianism, urination, drug use, pyromania, and the occult (to name a few). What's a parent to do? For starters, clean up their own act when it comes to music and other entertainment, and become more aware of what their children are listening to and watching. Finally, he says, "Remember: Your cable system does not have to carry MTV... let your cable operator know how you feel!"

CAC tops in organization

If you want to know how to start a Christian action organization, just ask the Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. That's the conclusion of the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission, which featured the state's organization in Light, its public policy magazine distributed six times annually to a national audience. The magazine article, written by CAC executive director Paul Jones, details the history of CAC and describes how the organization went from six local committees in the entire state in 1986, to the present-day system that can generate more than 15,000 calls to elected officials in six hours or less. "Mississippi's Christian Action Commission has become a model for organizing Christian Life Committees — what they call Christian Action Committees — on the local, associational, and state level," says the magazine's editor.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Johnson Hall, one of the original dormitories of Mississippi Woman's College in Hattiesburg, is being renovated to provide married student housing at the formerly all-female institution now known as William Carey College.

20 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meets at First Church, Kosciusko, inspects 220 acres for sale northwest of the city, and approves purchase of the land for a future Royal Ambassador campground.

50 years ago

College Avenue Church in Annapolis, Md., writes to Mississippi Baptist churches requesting names of Mississippians serving wartime duty at nearby U.S. Naval Academy, so they can enjoy the church's fellowship while away from home.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



Found faithful

The nature of the Scotch shepherd dog is faithfulness. If he is commanded to guard his master's coat, then he will not leave it until the master returns. Nothing can draw him away. A rabbit can run by, the dog will not move. A deer trots down the valley, the dog remains by the coat.

Now, if the dog had a baptistic mind, he might reason thus: "My master was not aware of the good opportunities that would come this way. If he knew as much as I do, he would want me to go after the game. I could do him more good if I play this by chance. The rabbit could be quickly caught and I would still be near the coat."

No pastor is to leave his flock and chase rabbits. No editor should wield a pen for a lesser cause, and no person in a position of trust should lightly pass it up in order to satisfy some natural curiosity. Parents should not neglect their children, however noble the cause may be.

The rabbit or other game would never be as pleasing to the shepherd as the faithfulness of his dog. He delights in the dog's allegiance to duty; not in some slow, dead rabbit.

Missionaries still in Haiti stay in touch, ask for prayer

By Mary E. Speidel

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Twice each day, David Heady talks on his ham radio to fellow missionaries in Haiti.

"We're trying as best we know how to carry on our lives with as much normalcy as possible," said Heady, a Southern Baptist who operates a Baptist conference center about 15 miles from Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital.

Heady and his wife Judy from Owensboro, Ky., are among several hundred American missionaries who opted to stay in Haiti despite the U.S. State Department's call to evacuate in June. About 50 of them check on each other's safety each day by radio.

"Pray for our safety, that we would have godly wisdom, that we would be strong and of good courage," said Heady, who works with Global Outreach, a mission agency in Tupelo. "If there's ever a time Haitians need to see Christ in us, it's in this hour."

Most of the estimated 2,000 missionaries who work in Haiti have left the country, Heady said.

Among those are Foreign Mission Board missionaries Mark and Peggy Rutledge from Murfreesboro, Tenn., and Glendale, Calif., respectively; Todd Lowe, a journeyman from Central, S.C.; and Ed Brentham, an International Service Corps volunteer from Belton, Texas. Brentham's wife Mary already was in the United States for medical treatment.

Foreign Mission Board missionaries Jim and Grace Ziler, who are transferring to Haiti from Brazil, were supposed to move to Haiti in July after finishing language school. The Zilers, from Avilla and New Haven, Mo., respectively, the Rutledges and Lowe are exploring temporary ministry options among Haitian refugees. The Brenthams are to take a temporary agricultural assignment in Barbados.

Most of the 21 American Baptist missionaries assigned to Haiti evacuated in June. Five remain to operate the Good Samaritan Hospital, a Baptist facility in Limbe.

Among several evangelical

Whatever trophy we lay at the Master's feet is never so beautiful as faithfulness. "It is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (1 Cor. 4:2).

What tempts us to leave the main task for lesser things? What paltry gift can we lay at the altar that would be enough to turn the eyes of God? Whatever a man worships, that will he serve. Whenever he has taken his eyes off the Master, abandoned his loyalty, be it for other gods, ideas, or half-truths, he has become a slave to whatever caused him to yield.

Bruce Powers, in *Growing Faith*, says, "Faith grows like the rings of a tree, with each ring adding to and changing the tree somewhat, yet building on that which has grown before."

Hymnwriter Ray Palmer said it well:

"While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide
Bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray,
From thee aside."

The Lord has given us an assigned task. The world itself is not enough if you have not been faithful. For what has a man profited if he gains the whole world and loses the only thing that really matters?



"According to our data, a small hole in the ozone layer has opened up directly above your house."

Source: *Close to Home* by John McPherson. (Zondervan, 1994), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-727-3480.

THE FRAGMENTS

Healing qualities

An employee of our printer, Cain Lithographers, recently inherited an April 7, 1955, copy of *The Baptist Record*. The paper had yellowed, the edges were ragged, but the reading was delightful.

A.L. Goodrich was the editor and W.C. Fields, Herman Milner, John McCall, Earl Kelly, and T.D. Sumrall were on the Advisory Committee.

Anna O'Bryant of Kosciusko had a letter to the editor, the likes of which this editor seldom sees: "I'm very sorry I have to be reminded to renew my subscription, for I can't think of being a Baptist and being without *The Baptist Record*."

Pastor Warren H. Rush and the Bethlehem Church, Laurel, broke ground for a new \$15,000 educational annex. The First Church, D'Iberville, was organized with E.D. Estes, J.D. Aycock, and G.C. Hodge on the Council. Miss Frances Parrette was church clerk.

Meanwhile, Allen Johnson and Vernon May addressed the Brotherhood spring meetings. S.R. Woodson announced that Roy Angel of Miami would be Youth Night speaker.

Roy Roby, MC, James Ruffin and Bob Wentz, MSU, and Harrell Sinclair of Clarke had all qualified for youth-led revivals. Bob Louk

of Dry Creek was the evangelist at Short Creek in revival. Tom Larimore of Southside led the music.

Second Church, Indianola, began with 100 members and Kermit Canterbury as pastor. Reeds G. Bilbo, MC student, was preaching at East Fork that week, and Charles Tidwell was named educational director at First Church, Canton.

Chester Quarles had a short note in "Sparks and Splinters" and Earl Kelly of First Church, Holly Springs, had been in revival with Roe Wilson in Channelview, Texas.

The 1954 Lottie Moon offering for the nation had gone over \$3,400,000. Joyce Simpson of Jackson was elected president of the BSU at Blue Mountain, and Lewis Rhodes of Daniel Memorial would be the Sunrise Service speaker in Jackson. The new Jackson newspaper, *The State-Times*, would cost you \$18 per year.

There was a new Symptomatic Home Treatment plan advertised for sufferers of arthritis — I had completely forgotten mine while reading the 39-year-old paper.

It may not help your arthritis, but we do believe reading *The Baptist Record* will make you feel better. Call Renee and sign up today.

— GH

But he empathizes with missionaries who opted to leave Haiti because of their individual situations or whose mission agencies urged them to leave.

"I can imagine what would be going on in their hearts and minds with Haiti being at the top of the news," he said.

Speidel writes for FMB.

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Editor.....	Guy Henderson
Associate Editor.....	William H. Perkins Jr.
Advertising/News writer.....	Teresa Dickens
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Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Deborah Brunt, Corinth; David Raddin, Yazoo City; Robert Self, Brookhaven; Charles Dunagin, Summit; Horace Kerr, Brandon; Grady Collins, Philadelphia; Teresa Dickens, secretary.
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WMU always "hard-wired" to missions, says convention historian

GLORIETA, N.M. — Hardwiring Woman's Missionary Union to the Southern Baptist Convention would be impossible because the organization is hardwired to something greater, according to a convention historian and author.

"Anyone who has the idea of hardwiring WMU to any structure has to realize that you are already hardwired to a task," said Jesse Fletcher as he addressed the more than 1,200 men and women attending WMU week at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

Fletcher, chancellor and former president of Hardin-Simmons University, is author of *The Southern Baptist Convention: A Sesquicentennial History*, due to be released in September by Broadman and Holman.

Fletcher borrowed a metaphor used by former Southern Baptist Convention president Adrian Rogers who last year said that WMU should be "hardwired" to the convention.

"You were hardwired conceptually to the task of mission support long before the SBC came into existence," Fletcher said as he recalled the Baptist women who organized and committed themselves to the support of early Baptist missionaries such as Adoniram Judson and William Carey.

Even though WMU was established and continues to operate as an auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention and not as an agency directly controlled or funded by the convention, WMU has been faithful to its purpose. In writing the history, Fletcher noted that WMU has made significant contributions to the SBC and has been critical to

what God has done through the convention.

"Your independence has never been the kind that has caused you to look away from your missionary commitment," Fletcher said.

The history of the SBC shows WMU's willingness to cooperate with the convention, he said before he listed examples.

* Participation on the Inter-Agency Council. The council is made up of the executive from each convention entity. The council coordinates the work of those entities.

* Participation on the SBC Executive Committee. "You stepped onto the Executive Committee not because you wanted a strategic place but because you were doing strategic things," he said.

* Conforming to the convention's policy of requiring program statements from its agencies. The program statements define the work of each entity within the convention.

"But the thing that we respect the most is that you haven't come down off the wall," he said.

Fletcher compared WMU to the prophet Nehemiah who devoted himself to rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Nehemiah didn't allow distractions or temptations to cause him to "come down off the wall," Fletcher said.

Noting that WMU has never come down off the wall of mission support, Fletcher credited the 106-year-old organization for its contributions to the convention.

"You've stayed with it in ways that have caused an interwoven effect of WMU and the Southern Baptist Convention that none of

those (early leaders) had any right to dream of," he said.

Fletcher listed some ways WMU and its leaders were involved in the early days of the convention:

* saving both mission boards from indebtedness;

* beginning an offering for Misioner Relief and Annuity;

* encouraging the establishment of the Sunday School Board; and

* encouraging local churches to have a worldwide missions vision.

"You've brought up our children to believe that God has a place for all of us in his missions task," he said.

Even though WMU has refused to allow distractions to take the organization from its primary com-

mitment to mission support, it hasn't ignored God's call to areas such as mission action.

"You've reached out and been willing to help us face our own social shortcomings," Fletcher said as he remembered WMU's contribution to the civil rights movement.

But as Fletcher praised WMU's commitment in the past, he also applauded its decisions of the present.

"Currently you are hardwired to the task of mission support," he said. "Recently I reread your statement of last year in which you reaffirmed your commitment to the task of missions and mission support. It's a clear statement of your commitment to stay on the wall."

Fletcher referred to the vision statement and core values adopted by the WMU executive board in January 1993.

He urged the organization to not waiver in its work.

Both Southern Baptists and the world are in the midst of turbulent times, he said. Both face more turbulence, violence, and threats to democracy than ever before.

"In Southern Baptist life, who doesn't know of the rocks and reefs that have rocked our convention. If we are to right our ship, we need the ballast, the single devotion, the commitment you have demonstrated," Fletcher said.

"We (the SBC) need you like never before."

Doyle writes for WMU.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Published Since 1877

Gaming commissioners fail to protect Gulfshore

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi's gaming commissioners on July 21 declined to issue a much-anticipated permanent ban on casino construction in the residential area around Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian.

Paul Harvey, executive director of the Mississippi Gaming Commission (MGC), cited advice of legal counsel as the reason for turning down Baptists' hopes of fully protecting the multi-million-dollar state campground from encroachment by the gambling boom along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"My recommendation is that we don't do anything," said Harvey.

The Gulfshore question has been simmering since Spectrum, Inc., announced plans to build a large casino almost within sight of Gulfshore in the quiet neighborhood known locally as Henderson Point.

Spectrum eventually withdrew their site approval request, but that didn't stop hundreds of Baptists and neighborhood residents from packing a June 30 MGC meeting in Biloxi, where Harvey and all three commissioners expressed the sentiment that Henderson Point was a legal — but inappropriate — site for gambling operations.

Paul Jones, executive director of the Christian Action Commission of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and Hank Ros, a Gulf Coast attorney representing Hen-

of Gulfport stressed that all three gaming commissioners have said they do not intend to approve a casino at Henderson Point.

"That should be enough," Engram said.

Commissioner W.W. Gresham of Indianola pointed out he was Southern Baptist but told Harvey, "I totally agree with you," in regard to the difficulty of legally imposing such a permanent ban.

MGC chairman Stuart Irby Jr. of Jackson said the "sense of the commission" is that Henderson Point is an unsuitable site, and any applicants should be "sufficiently discouraged."

Jones expressed disappointment over the commission's decision not to act, and he vowed to keep an eye on any similar proposals that may come before the commission.

"Our intention is to closely monitor all future gaming commission actions to assure there is no lessening of their desire to keep casino gambling away from the Gulfshore area," he said.

Nonnie DeBardeleben, a Henderson Point resident and opposition leader, said after the July 21 meeting that residents had high hopes for a permanent ban, but "the commissioners are men of their word; they will oppose it."

To be on the safe side, she added, "My house is going to have a permanent filing cabinet."

FBC, Jackson, conducts successful international adult VBS experiment

For many years Vacation Bible School has been an exciting time for children in Baptist churches throughout the Southern Baptist Convention. First Church, Jack-



Betty Malone (left), director of the International Bible School, laughs with participant Mr. Bali.



DOM officers

Russ Barker (left), director of missions for Atlanta Association, was recognized as the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention host director by the Southern Baptist Conference of Directors of Missions in Orlando. Other officers elected were (left to right): Ernest Sadler, secretary, Pascagoula; T.O. Spicer, president, Joplin, Mo.; John Dent Sr., treasurer, Walhalla, S.C.; and Charles Nunn Jr., first vice president, Richmond, Va. Not pictured are Larry Rose, second vice president, Fort Worth; and Karl Otis, editor, San Francisco. (BP photo)

Trustees, commissioners meet at Jackson seminar

A seminar for Mississippi Baptist trustees and commissioners was conducted at the Baptist Building, July 21. Speakers included Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; James L. Sullivan, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board; Steve Sewell, vice president and director of public relations, the Godwin Group advertising agency of Jackson; and Jim Guenther, Nashville attorney for the SBC.

The trustees were commended by Causey for their willingness to serve and for having been elected to this important post. They were admonished to keep alive that which has been entrusted to them,

to preserve it, and present it to others. Sullivan admonished the group to let the Bible be the basis and for their theology, philosophy, organization, and for their actions to grow out of that basis.

Sewell instructed the group to be concerned with reaching all people. "Let your position be known," he said, "for others will position you if you do not position yourself. Rumors spread where facts are not revealed."

Guenther spoke of the legal aspects of the trustees' task, especially related to laws and school policies. "Institutions need to do more in trustee training," said Guenther.

About 130 attended the conference.

Southern Baptist statesman —

Former BSSB president Sullivan shares expertise with agencies

The elder statesman for Southern Baptists, James L. Sullivan, hails from Tylertown in Walthall County and has been preaching for 68 years. He has served as pastor in Mississippi and Texas, and was president of the Baptist Sunday School Board for more than 20 years.

His expertise is in Baptist polity and policies and he has written six books on this subject. With a keen sense of humor and an excellent memory, Sullivan spoke to the assembled boards trustees and commissioners of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Skillfully, he wove a story of the early history of Mississippi Baptists and the forces that shaped their theology and activities. His own family history and the family of his wife was used to

make the connection with people like Richard Curtis, early pastor in the Natchez area, and Gaines Dobbins, who served for many years at Southern Seminary. Sullivan quoted Norman W. Cox, former pastor in Meridian and later president of the Historical Commission of the SBC. The great value of schools and institutions was recognized as Baptists settled in the state and began to plant churches.

J.B. Gambrell, preacher and first editor of *The Baptist Record*, was well known for planting churches and mission stations over the state. He moved on to Texas where he continued his work. He informed believers that they should not help the weak mission stations too much. "Every turtle ought to grow its own

Feminism actually hurts women, Christian magazine writer argues

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (EP) — Despite decades of success by feminists, two-thirds of American women decline to accept the feminist label.

Many believe feminism has shifted from emphasizing equality to promoting a victim mentality that debilitates women instead of freeing them, and feminism has ignored the need to nurture the next generation, argues writer Katherine Kersten in the June 20 issue of *Christianity Today*.

Kersten says that if women are to face the challenges of the future, they will need to seek strength in the radical equality offered in Christianity, not in a pessimistic self-worship that can only deepen their pain and emptiness.

"The metamorphosis of feminism from a campaign for equal rights to an existential crusade has had a curious result," Kersten writes in her article, titled "How the Feminist Establishment Hurts Women."

"Too often, contemporary feminism holds itself out as a source of ultimate meaning for women.

For many, it has become a religion," she points out.

Kersten continues, "Feminism in its religious guise — the sort of feminism that seeks to find ultim-

ship of Christ with prayers to "Sophia" and sought to "reimagine" their faith in personal, non-patriarchal ways. "Whether they knew it or not," writes Kersten, "conference participants were worshiping themselves."

Kersten points to the legacy of strong, successful Christian women such as Catherine Booth and Susannah Wesley. Christianity's universal truth "has its source outside our flawed and limited selves. This is the truth revealed to us in the Judeo-Christian God, and in the person of Jesus Christ, who said to us, 'I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life,'" she writes.

"Much has been given to us as women today, and much will be required of us," Kersten concludes. "I believe we have a moral responsibility to reclaim the heritage of classical feminism's proud accomplishments, and the image of the woman of character that grows out of it. It is this image, this vision, that we need to put to work in our churches — and pass on to our daughters."

"Feminism in its religious guise... is fundamentally incompatible with Christianity, and it exerts an increasingly destructive influence in the church world."

— Katherine Kersten,
Christianity Today,
June 20, 1994

mate meaning in the self — is fundamentally incompatible with Christianity, and it exerts an increasingly destructive influence in the church world."

Kersten cites a controversial feminist conference last year in which participants from many mainline churches replaced wor-

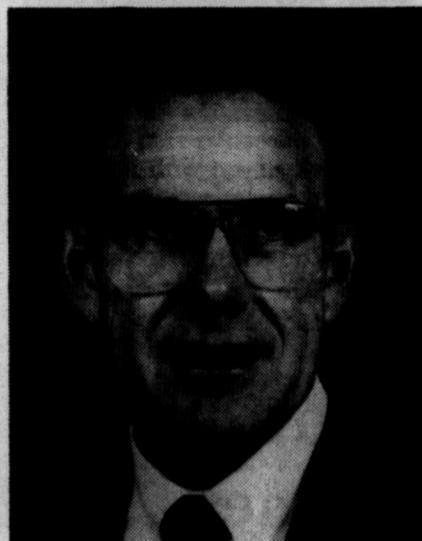
Duncan is new Golden Triangle DOM

Bill Duncan, 56, of Booneville, has resigned the pastorate of First Church, Booneville, to assume duties as the new director of missions for Clay/Lowndes/Oktibbeha (Golden Triangle) Association.

The Collins native succeeds J.C. Mitchell, who retired in May.

Duncan received the bachelor of arts in history from Mississippi College in 1957, the bachelor of divinity from New Orleans Seminary in 1962, and the doctor of ministries from New Orleans Seminary in 1979.

After his licensure by Calvary Church, Pascagoula, Duncan pas-



Duncan

tored churches on the Gulf Coast, in Brandon, Hazlehurst, Mendenhall, Greenville, and in Monroe, La., in addition to serving four years with the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board (MBCB) and 15 years as a college Bible professor.

Duncan, First, Booneville, pastor since 1982, has also served several agencies and boards of the MBCB, including the Christian Action Committee, the Committee on Committees, the Personnel Committee, and as trustee for the Baptist Children's Village. In addition, he has been moderator for the Pearl River and Prentiss associations, and president of several associational Pastors' Conferences.

He and his wife, the former Marion Duckworth, have two married sons, John of Clinton, and Mark of Jackson; and another son, David, a student at New Orleans Seminary.

Duncan is scheduled to begin his work with the association Aug. 1.



James L. Sullivan, former president of the Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville, was at the Baptist Building in Jackson last week to speak to the assembled trustees and commissioners of the varied agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

New Orleans Seminary offers three training opportunities in Mississippi

New Orleans Seminary offers three programs of training in Mississippi for men and women who are unable to attend classes as full-time students on the New Orleans Campus.

Courses offered at an extension center, a location off the main campus, bring the seminary closer to the needs of the students and churches, said Fuller Saunders, an area director for the seminary.

"Sometimes bivocational pastors or those who pastor full-time don't feel they can go to school while serving a church," Saunders said. The seminary's extension center in Mississippi "provides them an alternative. They can attend seminary and continue to serve their church at the same time," he said.

Besides men and women who already serve as church staff members, other students enrolled at the extension center have included a barber, a mechanic, a truck driver, and a banker.

New Orleans Seminary offers quality theological education at its Mississippi extension centers on both the associate and the master's degree levels. NOBTS is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to offer associate, baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degrees.

Applicants for the associate degree program must be at least age 25 and have a high school diploma or its equivalency.

Applicants for the master's degree program must be at least age 20 and have an accredited bachelor's degree, including at least 30 hours of liberal arts studies.

Applicants for all degree programs must have been a Christian for at least one year, have a recommendation from a local church, and have completed and received

approval of the application form.

The matriculation fee is \$162.50 for one course taken in a semester, \$325 for two courses, \$487.50 for three courses, and \$650 for four or more courses. Non-Southern Baptist students pay double matriculation. Fees must be paid at the time of registration.

For more information, interested individuals may write the Extension Center Office at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126-4858; or call the Extension Center Office at 1-800-662-8701, ext. 3323.

Associate degree classes meet every Monday at Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Qualified students may enroll on the first day of class for the Associate in Christian Studies degree with a concentration in theological studies in Christian education.

Fall semester courses (Aug. 22-Dec. 12) are as follows: 1-3:30 p.m.: "Interpreting Romans," taught by Earl Kelly; 4-6:30 p.m.: "Ministry of Christian Education," taught by Chester Vaughn; 7-9:30 p.m.: "Evangelism," taught by James Fancher.

Spring semester courses (Jan. 23-May 15) are as follows: 1-3:30 p.m.: "Christian Doctrine," taught by Earl Kelly; 4-6:30 p.m.: "Introduction to Church Administration," taught by Julius Thompson; 7-9:30 p.m.: "Interpreting Exodus," taught by Jack Glaze. For further information, contact Chester Vaughn, 268 Northpointe Pkwy., Jackson, MS 39211-2412; or call 601-956-6285.

Master's degree classes meet every Monday in Provine Chapel on the Mississippi College campus. The registration for master's level courses must be completed by Aug. 1.

First Term Courses (Aug. 22-Oct. 10) are as follows: 8 a.m.-noon: "Church Staff Relations," taught by Tom Roote; 1-5 p.m.: "Introduction to Christian Proclamation," taught by Luther Dorr; 6-10 p.m.: "Introduction to Old Testament," taught by Jack Glaze.

Second term courses (Oct. 24-Dec. 12) are as follows: 1-5 p.m.: "Introduction to Christian Proclamation," taught by Luther Dorr; 6-10 p.m.: "Introduction to the Old

Testament," taught by Jack Glaze.

Third term courses (Jan. 23-March 13) are as follows: 1-5 p.m.: "Evangelism," taught by Argile Smith; 6-10 p.m.: "Introduction to the New Testament," taught by Gene Henderson.

Fourth term courses (March 27-May 15) are as follows: 1-5 p.m.: "History of the Baptists," taught by Al James; 6-10 p.m.: "Introduction to the New Testament," taught by Gene Henderson.

For further information contact Fuller Saunders, 5731 Pepper Ridge Rd., Jackson, MS 39211-3125; or call 601-957-2670.

A Christian Education Associate Program is also offered by NOBTS in Mississippi. This program is designed to train laypersons to serve as part-time educational workers in churches on a volunteer or paid basis. Classes meet two hours one evening each week in eight-week terms. Courses will be offered at three locations during the 1994-95 academic year: Broadmoor Church, Jackson; Antioch Church, Columbus; and Pearl River Association office in Carriere.

The first term course (Aug. 22-Oct. 10) is as follows: "Baptist Distinctives," taught by Earl Kelly in Jackson; Sammy Crawford in Columbus, and Ken Rhodes in Carriere.

The second term course (Oct. 24-Dec. 10) is as follows: "Developing an Evangelistic Church," taught by Julius Thompson in Jackson; Sammy Crawford in Columbus; and Ken Rhodes in Carriere.

The third term course (Jan. 23-March 13) is as follows: "Survey of SBC Curriculum," taught by Chester Vaughn in Jackson; Sammy Crawford in Columbus; and Ken Rhodes in Carriere.

Thursday, July 28, 1994

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



New building for Lamar

Lamar Association recently held a groundbreaking service for its new office and ministries building in the Bellevue community. The first contribution towards the new building fund was given by Challengers of Corinth Church, Purvis. They are (top photo, left to right): Josh Tillman, Paul Johnson, Ashley Anderson, Kyle Lawler, Brian Parker, and Tommy Anderson. Paul Bolin, (far right) Challengers leader, presented the check to Doug Benedict, association director of missions. Johnny Breazeale is pastor, Corinth Church. Taking part in the groundbreaking ceremony were (above): Bill Nobles, moderator; Doug Benedict; Richard Miley; Johnny Breazeale; James Burnham; Wendell Hudson, building committee chairman; Kathy Mayo; Jerry King, association finance committee chairman; and Mike Shumock. Not pictured are Kaye Leggett and Leland Lott. Construction began the first week in July.

Excitement is "nothing new" —

Church renewal process no secret; many Baptists unaware of impact

By Sidney Ellis

the fellowship was sweet.

"Then as we met for worship and lay people led by simply sharing what was happening in their lives with God, the spirit of expectancy grew.

"Secondly, many rediscovered the heart-moving power of personal testimony that was fresh and real. Soon we noted that people were saying what they wanted to say, instead of what was supposed to be said.

"Then in small group sessions, there was time for our people to share. Many picked up on saying what they wanted and needed to say. This resulted in a fresh and new power released.

"This so impressed our people that we now have more than 100 organized in small group meetings.

"While the church shared in small groups, a small group of visiting team members formed a prayer group.

"This was a beautiful experience for those who attended. Some specific requests and needs were met as a result of these prayer meetings.

"Another exciting event was the men and women meeting separately on Saturday noon.

"Our men shared some of the most moving testimonies I have ever heard.

"Personal testimony, which is God-inspired, has changing power both for the individual

giving the testimony and also those who hear it and share it.

"The worship time during Sunday School and morning worship were powerful experiences led by lay people. Just ordinary people who had something to share.

"Surely, God intended all of his people to share their faith and walk with him in order that others could come to want to know him.

"Many attitudes were changed, relationships were made right, and fellowship and reconciliation restored.

"For many of us at Oakhurst, this was one of the greatest experiences of spiritual renewal for a number of years.

"Lay renewal involves the church, and God's plan is to live through, bless, and use all of his children in kingdom business.

"I recommend lay renewal to any church which truly wants renewal."

The Mississippi Brotherhood Department is available to churches and associations to speak about the exciting Church Renewal Journey which includes much more than the Lay Renewal Weekend. Contact Sidney Ellis, state church renewal coordinator, at the Mississippi Brotherhood department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800.



NOBTS student wives

Seven women recently received a certificate of excellence award from New Orleans Seminary after completing six courses specifically designed for student wives. Pictured with teachers Jo Ann Leavell (back left), and Rhonda Kelley (back right) are: Pat Bene of New Orleans, church secretary of Gentilly Church, New Orleans; Jennifer Michael of Jackson; Carla Tyndall of Wilkesboro, N.C., wife of Brian Tyndall, pastor of Gillsboro Church, Osyka; Eunice Heimuth of Gulfport; Lynn Williams of Slidell, La.; Mary Hensley (back center) of Brevard, N.C. Also participating (not pictured) was Patti Harris of Charlotte, N.C. (NOBTS photo by Eric Grizzel)

It could happen here —

Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9: A shot across earth's bow?

By David T. Dockery III

Last week (July 16-22) there was something new under the sun — the greatest cataclysmic event in our solar system ever witnessed by man.

Twenty-one, mountain-sized chunks of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 traveling at 134,000 miles an hour impacted Jupiter.

Each piece exploded with more force than all the world's nuclear weapons. Some sent up earth-sized fireballs as hot as 53,550 degrees Fahrenheit.

Expectations for these impacts varied among scientists. Because comets are veiled in dust and vapor, we knew little about the substance of their cores.

Some predicted that these cores were like a snowball that would disintegrate in Jupiter's gravity, raining down so much slush.

Others predicted a compact mountain of ice and rock that would penetrate the Jovian clouds, sending up spectacular fireballs.

Now we know the latter to be true. Comets are objects capable of great destruction. We also know that they can break into multiple fragments and hit a planet many times.

What does all this mean to us? The first possibility that comes to mind is: "What if this were happening on earth?" Does that sound like a subject some Bible-prophecy teacher would love?

Well, consider that in the July 19 issue of USA Today, atheist Carl Sagan warns that earth could

face a civilization-threatening cosmic collision like that on Jupiter. He advocates a search for such objects and development of nuclear weapons to deflect them.

Is Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 a sign from God, a shot across our bow? Believing that nothing happens by chance, the answer is yes.

Genesis 1:14 says that God created heavenly lights for signs and seasons. Joel 2:30-31 says that wonders in the heaven will precede the terrible day of the Lord. It also suggests an extraterrestrial impact in that the "sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood."

Such would be the case if the black ash belching up from Jupiter were in our atmosphere. Jesus in Matthew 24:21-22 talks of the worst tribulation the world has seen, a time so disastrous that if it were not cut short, no life would survive.

This could be fulfilled today if Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 had hit earth rather than Jupiter. The darkened sun and stars falling from heaven mentioned in verse 24:29 seem to suggest such an event.

Even the coming of Christ in the clouds of heaven better fits an incoming comet that could be seen by all the earth rather than a relatively small atmospheric cloud. Certainly the former would be a reason for the tribes of earth to mourn.

Other biblical descriptions of extraterrestrial impacts include

the vision of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:34 in which a stone "cut without hands" (not a human device) smote the last great world government and crushed it to dust.

The trumpets sounded by the angels in the 8th and 9th chapters of Revelation heralded sequential impacts.

The first "comet" created a fireball that burned up a third of the trees and grass.

The second came as a burning mountain (same term used in the press for the comet fragments that crashed into Jupiter), hitting the ocean and destroying a third of the ships and sea life.

The third fell on land and poisoned a third of the rivers.

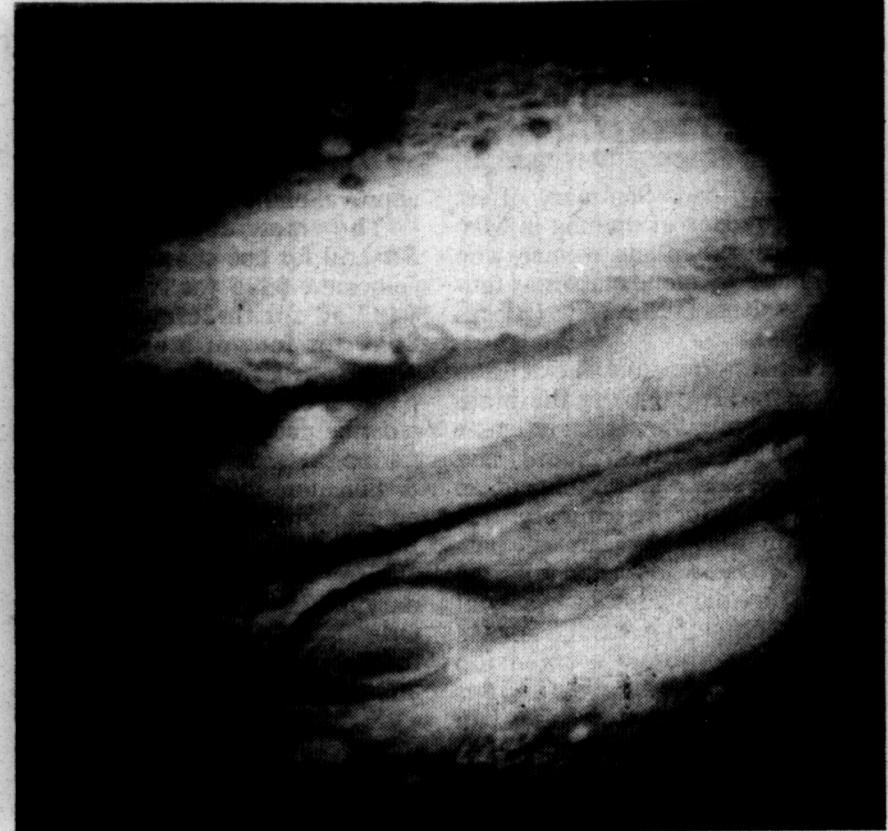
The fourth sent up enough ash so that the sun and moon were visible only near the zenith for a third of the day.

The fifth created a furnace in a "bottomless pit" sending up black smoke and strange pests.

Previously, the multiple impacts recorded in Revelation would seem impossible, as the probabilities of a comet hitting earth are only perhaps one in a thousand in any century.

That was before we knew that a comet could break into a chain of mountain-sized chunks. Now we see a glimpse of the trumpet judgments as they occurred on Jupiter.

Dockery is a member of Pocahontas Church, Jackson, and works with the Mississippi Office of Geology.



Jupiter

Age of earth debate began in 1600s, continues today

NASHVILLE (BP) — Do we live on a relatively fresh earth just 6,000 years into its existence? Or an ancient planet that is millions, perhaps billions, of years old?

The argument has raged since 1650, when through his study of biblical genealogies, English Archbishop James Ussher claimed he had uncovered the earth's age. He pinpointed the creation of heaven and earth as occurring the night before Oct. 23, 4004 B.C.

Because evolutionists often identify with those who argue against God's existence, some Christians line up with the "young earth" theory. Others believe phrases in the beginning of Genesis could refer to longer periods of time in the creation story.

The Institute for Creation Research supports the idea of a literal six-day creation (and young earth) to be consistent with its reliance on biblical foundations.

"The primary justification for a literal six-day creation is based on biblical exposition," said Larry Vardiman. "There are a whole host of arguments as to why that's a literal 24-hour day. We recognize that causes a lot of people problems, because of the belief the earth is millions, or billions, of years old."

Vardiman noted it is possible to be a creationist and not deal with the issue of the earth's age. And he acknowledged there are two factors that favor theories of an older earth — radioisotope dating techniques and the size of the universe. Because of the speed of light, "older earth" proponents believe it would have taken millions of years for light to reach the earth, he said.

However, the astrophysicist pointed out there are many problems with traditional evolutionary theories that also bring into question "old earth" beliefs.

"One of the strongest arguments we give is: The evidence is not there for the (evolutionary) transitional forms, from one species to another," he said. "There is really no response to that, because the

data isn't there. (Evolutionists) just say, 'Well, we haven't found it yet.'"

However, David Dockery of the Mississippi Office of Geology and a member of Pocahontas Church near Jackson, said following Archbishop Ussher's theory "is not good science."

"With 'in the beginning' in Genesis, I don't think it's a dateable thing," said Dockery, who grew up in a Southern Baptist church. "It allows me as a geologist to say the earth is millions of years old and is not at odds with anything in the Bible."

Dockery said while he disagrees with those who support the idea of a 6,000-year-old earth, he would not belittle anyone for their beliefs. But whoever tries to prove that scientifically is not standing on solid ground, he said.

Biophysicist Joe Gatewood agrees with Dockery, but adds that he finds the Genesis creation story a beautiful way of describing the process of evolution. Since 2 Peter 3:8 compares a thousand years to one day in God's sight, Gatewood said he doesn't think the Lord can be constrained to a six-day interval of time as we understand it.

In addition, the Los Alamos National Laboratory staffer detects an irony in the debate over the earth's age, saying Christians who profess to live by faith are usually the ones demanding specific answers.

"The Christian community feels a certain need to make things concrete and try to eliminate the ability to doubt," Gatewood said. "To me, that isn't a life of faith. It's a life of being dogmatic, where you limit the possibilities."

"There's so much of this I don't understand and I'm continuing to study and have things revealed to me. When you acknowledge that, you open yourself up to a lot, and people don't like to be that honest," Gatewood said. "I think we have a lot of oversimplification and it's based in insecurity."



Garaywa summer staffers

The 1994 Garaywa summer staff members, left to right, are: first row, Christy Kirkendoll, Stephanie Smith, Heather Booth, Leanne Bennett, Emily Best, Tamera Davis, Cyndi Eubanks, Kyra Fuqua, Rebecca Arthur; second row, Alicia Lowrey, Heather Palmer, Patti Rone, Mandy McBeth, Amy Sneed, Sonya Smith, Sandi Cleveland, Pam Wheat; third row, Kim Grissom,

Aimee Collett, Amanda Langford, Katherine Hinson, Hope Fayard, Sharon Williamson, Heidi Cheatham, Hollie Calhoun, Sharon Posey; fourth row, Ami Beth Roberts, Stephanie Miles, Amy Cutrer, Kim Cagle, Macy Smith, Jeanne Bennett, Heather Nix, Michelle Ivy, Leslie Dickinson, Heather Irby, and Helen Price, director.

pray this day...

August 1-15, 1994

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone: 968-3800, Ext. 3904 Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY	for leadership committees on every level of Baptist life as leadership is enlisted for the coming year 1	for training sessions being conducted for church leadership 2	for efforts to begin new things in churches, especially church prayer ministries 3	for pastors who may not be happy leading their churches 4	for churches who may not be happy following their pastors 5	for each such pastor and each such church to be able to get happy with one another 6
for churches which are happy with their pastors 7	for pastors who are happy with their churches 8	for each such pastor and each such church to be able to stay that way 9	for new pastors going to new churches 10	for churches receiving new pastors 11	for each such pastor and each such church to be able to be to each other what they need to be 12	for those who plan the budget for the new year 13
for those who give to meet the budget for the new year 14	for people all over the world who will be blessed by the churches as they give through the Cooperative Program and to special missions offerings 15	Dependability – that trait which makes it possible for someone to trust us...to know that when we say we will do something, we will...to know that we will do our very best...dependable folks really are vital to the Lord's work...let's pray that we will be found dependable...				

Summer WMU Leadership Training Opportunities For All Age Levels:

Associational Leader Training

August 2	12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Tuesday)	Camp Garaywa
August 4	12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (Thursday)	Camp Garaywa
*August 5-6	3:00 p.m. (Friday) - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)	Camp Garaywa

Church Leader Training

•July 28-30	7:40 p.m. (Thursday) - 12:00 p.m. (Saturday)	Gulfshore
•August 4-6	7:40 p.m. (Thursday) - 12:00 p.m. (Saturday)	Gulfshore
August 2	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Tuesday)	Camp Garaywa
	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Tuesday)	Camp Garaywa
August 3	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Wednesday)	Camp Garaywa
August 4	9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (Thursday)	Camp Garaywa
	6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (Thursday)	Camp Garaywa
*August 5-6	3:00 p.m. (Friday) - 11:30 a.m. (Saturday)	Camp Garaywa

•Registration is required for Gulfshore training. Register directly at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly—(601) 452-7261.

As part of **Project Help**, we would like for each person to bring a canned good and \$.25 to donate to a selected ministry center.



Weekend Leadership for Church and Associational Leaders
August 5-6, 1994 • Camp Garaywa

Association name (for ALT track) _____

Church name (for CLT track) _____

Church Address _____

Contact person of group _____

Phone number of contact person _____

Number registering _____ Amount enclosed _____

(registration cost is \$23 per person)

*Registration form above for WMU Summit at Camp Garaywa, August 5-6, 1994. Mail registration to WMU Summit, Camp Garaywa, P. O. Box 1278, Clinton, MS 39060.

OUTSTANDING SMALL CHURCH PASTORS OF THE YEAR - 1994

Harvey Sewell, pastor of the Crowder Baptist Church (North Delta Association) and **Stanley Magill**, pastor of the Yellow Creek Baptist Church (Tishomingo Association) were recognized as the 1994 Outstanding Small Church Pastors of the year. This recognition occurred during the second Growing Churches for Tomorrow Conference, July 14-16, at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. This annual recognition focuses needed attention on the pastoral leadership of smaller membership and single staff churches in the Mississippi Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1987 the Southern Baptist Convention directed the Church Administration department of the Baptist Sunday School Board to coordinate with state conventions a process of recognition of outstanding small church pastors. This process began the following year. Julius Thompson, director of the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, began the Mississippi recognition process the same year. Each year two deserving pastors are chosen by a select committee from nominations by directors of missions and other associational leadership. These two men and their families are recognized each summer by the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly.

Harvey Sewell has served as pastor of the Crowder Church for ten and one-half years. Despite a population decline, school and church closings, no new industry and common Delta problems, Sewell has led his church to grow numerically, spiritually and missions-wise. Cooperative Program receipts have increased from 15 to 25 percent. Evangelism, strong Bible preaching/teaching, missions trips, Christian discipleship growth (Experiencing God and MasterLife), lay renewal, family life center construction, shut-in ministry, and community involvement are ministries and activities that typify Sewell's pastorate. Associational and State Convention service also have been an important part of Sewell's ministry. The results of Sewell's ten and one-half year pastorate are very evident in Crowder. He and his wife Linda have two children; Joy, age 21 and Marty, age 19. Both children are students at Ole Miss and active in the BSU.

Stanley Magill has served as pastor of Yellow Creek Baptist Church since August, 1977. This church was organized from mission status the same year. Under Magill's leadership the church has Sunday School, Discipleship Training, Missions Organizations, outreach ministry, and preschool extended sessions. Personal ministry and care to the unchurched in that area has typified Magill's pastoral ministry. He has led his church in community survey, marriage enrichment conferences, Christian Home emphasis, deacon ministry and prayer chain support. He has served in various positions in the Tishomingo Association through the years, including moderator.

In September, 1991, the church burned and only a few items were saved. Magill led the Yellow Creek congregation to rebuild beautiful, modern church facilities, debt free. Through the organization of building committees, program leadership and his pastoral guidance, Yellow Creek was able to sustain its ministry while planning and rebuilding these new facilities.

Magill is a bivocational pastor. He is the assistant superintendent of education for Tishomingo County Schools. This professional identity as a faithful, competent educator has gained respect for Magill in the county.

Magill and his wife Martha have two children; Sonya McRight of Luka, and Monica, a junior at Ole Miss.

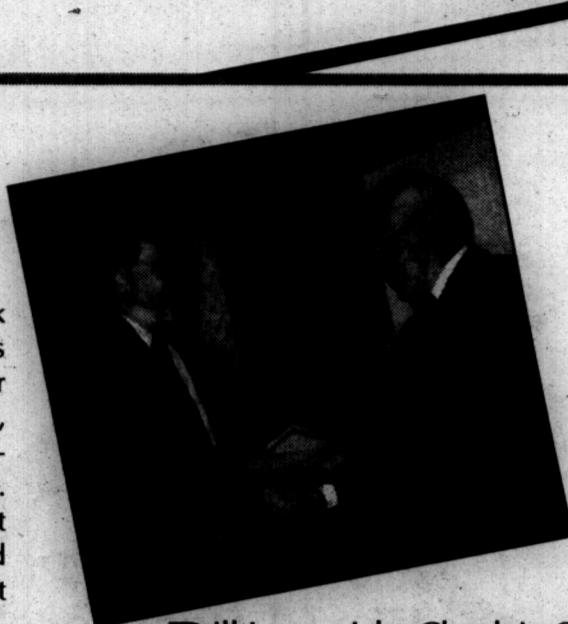
Sewell and Magill were nominated to the National Recognition process. David Howeth, pastor of Canyon Ferry Road Baptist Church in East Helena, Montana, and Ricky Hughes, pastor of Cartledge Creek Baptist Church in Rockingham, N. C., were chosen for the national award. They were recognized by the Pastor/Staff Leadership Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board at Glorieta and Ridgecrest Assembly Centers, respectively.

Matt Buckles, consultant for the Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department and coordinator of the recognition process, encourages directors of missions and associational leaders to nominate deserving pastors of churches (membership or Sunday School enrollment under 300) in 1995. The process will begin in January, 1995, when nomination forms are mailed to associations.

Below are listed the dates and locations of this year's Town and Country Conferences. These conferences are designed for churches which have 150 members or fewer in Sunday School.

- August 4-5 • Longview Heights BC, Olive Branch
- August 5-6 • FBC, Sartis
- August 11-12 • Springdale BC, Ripley
- August 12-13 • Ecru BC, Ecru

For further information, contact Jimmy McCaleb, Church Music Dept., MBCB, at (601) 968-3800, ext. 3873.



Bill Jones, right, Chaplain Coordinator for Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association, shares a moment of congratulations with Jack Follis, director of Pastoral Services, upon his retirement from the East Mississippi State Hospital in Meridian. Follis gave leadership to the Chaplaincy Department at this hospital for 22 1/2 years.

Follis is presently serving as supervisor for students who are engaged in Clinical Pastoral Education at Baptist Medical Center in Jackson.



Black Church Development Week at Ridgecrest was attended by over 600 persons from across the nation. This week was sponsored by Black Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board; Black Church Relations, Foreign Mission Board; Black Church Development, Baptist Sunday School Board; Black Evangelism, Home Mission Board; Brotherhood Commission and Woman's Missionary Union. Fifty-three persons from Mississippi representing 9 churches experienced "Spiritual Explosion '94," the theme for the July 2-8 conference. Richard Brogan, consultant for Ministries with Black Church Extension, was the coordinator for the event.

The group attended workshops on Church Administration, Music Development, Sunday School Growth and Youth Ministry. Willie McPherson, director of the Black Church Extension Division, Home Mission Board, announced that as of July 1994, there are 1,267 black Southern Baptist churches in the Southern Baptist Convention.

*Article by Richard Brogan, consultant
Missions Extension-Associational Administration*



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES



INTERIM PASTOR NEEDED FOR ALASKA

Cold Bay Chapel located on the Alaska Peninsula is in need of an interim pastor (a couple) for a period of six months to a year. They are seeking a mature person with several years of experience. Average attendance is 25 at present. Housing would be provided, but the couple/person would need to provide transportation and living expenses.

Any couple/person interested should contact Bill Hardy in the Partnership Missions Office, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone 601/968-3800.

VANS NEEDED IN ALASKA

There is a need for church-type vans in Alaska. One church is trying to maintain an outreach ministry and desperately needs one or two good used vans.

The LaVeme Griffin Youth Recreation Camp needs a van to transport volunteer staff and campers.

Possibly some church is considering a new van purchase and would donate the used one to one of these projects.

Inquiries should be directed to the Partnership Missions Office, c/o Bill Hardy, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 or call 601 /968-3800.

....
McComb
July 27, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Central Baptist Church
3rd and 21st Street

....
Laurel
July 28, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Sharon
North from Laurel on 5th Avenue or
Exit 104 on I-59 to the Sharon Community

....
Jackson
July 29, 1994, 10:00 a.m.
Baptist Building
515 Mississippi Street

....
Jackson
July 29, 1994, 3:00 p.m.
North Park Mall
(in front of J. C. Penney)
1200 E. County Line Road

....
Grenada
July 30, 1994, 6:30 p.m.
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Highway 8 and 51 Intersection

....
Batesville
July 31, 1994, 11:00 a.m.
First Baptist Church
104 - 108 Panola Avenue

....
Columbus
July 31, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Immanuel Baptist Church
503 18th Avenue, North

....
Jackson
August 1, 1994, 7:00 p.m.
Broadmoor Baptist Church
787 E. Northside Drive

Letters to the editor

Pay day on the way

Editor:

Regarding your article, "Queen of Hearts," in **The Record** dated July 14, you have asked a lot of questions and gave little answers. What you have written demands attention from all churches and pastors, and action, too. Really, the big problem we all face and have, always, is the sin problem. Someone said, "You give us 'old' Christians (or humans) an inch and we'll take a mile."

When Moses came down from the mount, he heard Aaron say, "Let not the anger of my Lord wax hot, thou knowest the people — that they are set on mischief" (Ex. 32:22).

Could we (in our day) be at the foot of some Sinai demanding a golden calf? The devil is always showing us the beauty of the high mountains of the world, as he did Jesus, and saying to us, as he did Jesus, "I will give you all these things if you will bow and worship me" (Matt. 4:8-9).

Christians of our day must exercise Daniel's determination, who purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the King's meat (Dan. 1:8). Now, there is only one way to be saved and get to heaven, you guessed it. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," and he also said, "Repent or perish" (Luke 13:3). What is the difference? You can't get saved and live the same old life. The difference is being born again to a new life in Christ. "Old things are passed

away, behold all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

We don't go into the sin business just because Jesus is in the forgiving business. No! Our Savior forgave a woman taken in adultery, but he said, "Go and sin no more." Or, "Quit your meanness, repent!" (John 8:11).

You deserve much credit for saying a pay day is on its way down the road. How true. Our prayer is, "Lord, in your judgment, remember mercy." Note this, the Bible says, "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thes. 5:22).

Advice: Church groups, take the casino tours off your agenda.

D.L. Callender, pastor
Holmesville Church
McComb

guidance of our Lord, continue to minister to us. Don't become a nice sounding "publicity organ" quoting propaganda from those who want our loyalty and allegiance. Tell us the news! The God in me can handle it. Thank you for your service.

David Miller, pastor
Emmanuel Church
Biloxi

Roseland Park to host crusade

Roseland Park Church, Picayune, will hold a Crusade for Christ, each Monday night in August at 7 p.m.

Guest preachers for each of the services will be:

Aug. 1, senior adult night with Dale Patterson, former Roseland Park pastor, now in Pensacola, Fla.;

Aug. 8, Sunday School night with John T. Brock, Pearl;

Aug. 15, family night with Harold O'Chester, Austin, Texas;

Aug. 22, youth night with Tom Elliff, Del City, Okla.; and

Aug. 29, music night with Mike Speck, Owasso, Okla.

Frank Nix, music minister of Roseland Park Church, will lead praise, along with the Celebration and Jubilation choirs.

John G. Brock is pastor.

The right to know

Editor:

After reading the letter by Warren Fortson of Brandon, published in the July 21 issue, I had to respond. I agree with him that much "goodwill" needs to be promoted. But, please, not at the cost of true journalism! We Baptists in Mississippi have a "right to know" the feelings, troubles, and struggles of our sister churches in other states.

When the SBC makes a decision like the one made in June, ramifications will occur. I want to know what happens. Under the

LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ed.D
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can I help my 7-year-old daughter deal with peer pressure and become her own person?

Give her your TIME:

T — Touch and tenderness. This communicates that she is lovable and valuable. She learns that she doesn't have to get this from another person in order to be happy, because she is already loved by God and her parents.

I — Involvement and individuality. Become a good observer. Give attention to her activities, attend her performances, encourage her all along the way, and acknowledge her uniqueness.

M — Messages and meals. Listen to her and be aware of her needs, fears, joys, and passions. Allow her to always have your ear, and use family meal time as a way to encourage communication.

E — Eye contact and enjoyment. Talk eye-to-eye as much as possible, and take time to laugh and play. A child learns by playing, and they'll talk more when you play with them.

Sometimes I feel God does not hear me. I keep wondering if I have done something wrong.

I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Since God is who he says he is, we can be assured that he hears us. The frustration is that we often do not receive the answer we want, as quickly as we want. Jesus tells the story in Luke 11 of the man who knocked persistently at his friend's door, even late at night, to ask for bread. Jesus encourages us to be persistent and bold in our requests and prayers. If we confess our sins, he is faithful to forgive and cleanse us. God cannot look at sin, but the blood of Christ cleanses us so we can come boldly to his throne of grace.

He is a loving father who wants to give his children bread rather than stones. We have to trust that God, as our father, may see things differently and give us what we need at the appropriate time.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Baptist offers a breath of fresh air for patients with hard-to-heal wounds.

Introducing the Hyperbaric Therapy Center at MBMC.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center offers new help for a variety of patients — including persons who have diabetes — with the opening of the Hyperbaric Therapy Center, part of the Wound Care Program at Baptist.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy can help heal wounds that previously would not heal or were very slow to heal.

Although its name sounds complicated or even a bit frightening, Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is simply a treatment where patients receive 100% oxygen at greater than normal pressure.

Patients undergoing treatment relax, sleep or watch television while lying in a special oxygen chamber where the atmospheric pressure is precisely controlled at a level two to three times higher than normal. This process super-

saturates the patient's blood with oxygen, promoting new tissue growth.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is also helpful in treating other medical conditions. It is sometimes used to reduce swelling, inactivate toxins like carbon monoxide, and stop tissue damage that occurs with brown recluse spider bites.

The treatments, which usually last 90 to 120 minutes, are painless and normally have no side effects.

Designed to be convenient for patients with limited mobility, the center is located on the first floor of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, across the hall from the physical therapy department.

If you'd like more information on the benefits of this new service or an evaluation, call 948-MBMC (6262) or 1-800-948-MBMC.

Hyperbaric Therapy Center at Baptist



MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER

We're healthcaring for the whole family.

Staff Changes

Tim Smith of Carthage recently became Baptist Student Union director at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and student ministry resource person for the Alaska Baptist Convention. He was a BSU intern with Georgia College, Milledgeville, during the 1993-94 academic year. He is a graduate of New Orleans Seminary.



Cary Church, Cary, has called Perry Perrett as pastor, effective June 12. The Jackson native previously served McCall Creek Church as pastor. He is currently attending Mississippi College.

Hillsboro Church, Scott Association, has called Carey E. Bass as pastor effective May 1. Bass formerly served as pastor of Shady Grove Church, Smith Association. He can be contacted at Rt. 5, Box 197-7, Forest, MS 39074, or phone (601) 625-8164.

Curtis Ferrell, missionary to Ecuador for 13 years, recently accepted the call to **Parkway Church**, Jackson, as associate pastor and minister of religious education. Ferrell is a graduate of Mississippi College, Southern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.



Stan Fornea, 36, has been called as pastor of Morrison

Heights Church, Clinton, effective Aug. 7. He currently pastors First Church, Sherman, Texas. The Louisiana native has pastored churches in Cleveland, Mendenhall, and Marks. He is a graduate of Southeastern University in Hammond, La., New Orleans Seminary, and Vanderbilt Divinity School. He is married and has two children.

Mickey Ferguson, pastor of First Church, Raleigh, for six years, has accepted a position in school psychological services.

Macedonia Church, Lauderdale Association, has called Jason Gross as pastor.

Mark Jones recently moved to Port St. Joe, Fla., where he will serve as minister of music and youth at Long Avenue Church. Churches he has served in Mississippi are Calvary, Newton; First, Stonewall; Mt. Horeb, Meridian; Mt. Jones Horeb, Collins; and Trinity, Carthage. Trinity Church honored him and his family with a reception Sunday afternoon, June 12.



Parkhill Church, Jackson, called Timothy Lee Roaten as pastor effective July 24. Roaten moved from Sapa Church, Eupora.

Burn Page, pastor of First Church, Wiggins, has resigned to accept the pastorate of First Church, Baton Rouge, La.

Lee Yancey has been called as minister of youth at First Church, Conyers, Ga. He is a graduate of

R.T. and Frances Buckley, missionaries to Bangladesh, are on the field (address: Box 99, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh). He is a native of Picayune. The former Frances Boynes was born in Gibson.

Michael and Karla Cannata, missionaries to Tanzania, have arrived in Kenya for language study (address: P.O. Box 52, Limuru, Kenya). Son of retired Southern Baptist missionaries, he was born in Sanyati, Zimbabwe, and also lived in Hollandale. The former Karla McPherson, daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, was born in Las Cruces, N.M.

Winston and Barbara Capon, Baptist representatives to Israel, are in the States (address: 3140 Row Place, Falls Church, VA 22044). He is a native of Noxapater, and she is the former Barbara Carter of Mercedes, Texas.

Steve and Minnie Hicks, Bap-

tist representatives to Mexico, are in the States (address: 506 Jeff Davis Avenue, P.O. Box 302, Long Beach, MS 39560). He is a native of Madisonville, La., and she is the former Minnie Greer of Poplarville.

William and Cynthia Martin, missionaries to Bolivia, are on the field (address: Casilla 2568, Santa Cruz, Bolivia). He is a native of Yazoo City, and she is the former Cynthia Hammack of Natchez.

Payton and Helen Myers, missionaries to Nigeria, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 263, Zaria, Nigeria). They are both natives of Mississippi. He was born in Hazlehurst and grew up in Jackson; she is the former Helen Green of Prentiss.

Bob and Sherry Sims, missionaries to Ghana, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 400, Accra, Ghana). He is a native of Flomaton, Ala., and she is the former Sherry McCraw of Jackson.

Names in the News

Carey Bates, Southern Baptist missionary to Portugal, has been named a candidate consultant in the Foreign Mission Board's Personnel Selection Department. Bates, from Memphis, will work with missionary candidates in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. He and his wife

have been on leave of absence from their assignment in student and youth work in Portugal since late 1993. During that time he has been interim minister of youth at Ridgeway Church in Memphis.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Mark Blankenship, a 20-year employee of the Baptist Sunday School Board and senior director of Genevox Music Group, has been named director of the board's redesigned Music Department, effective immediately. Blankenship has had more than 300 copyrighted choral works published with Genevox and other publishers. Among his choral works are "Kneel at the Cross," "The Followers," "Stearns and

Concord Church, Yazoo City, has called James Garner as pastor effective April 17. A native of Magee, Garner is currently attending New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was Tillatoba Church.

Forrest Sheffield is the new pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. He has served at First Church, Harrah, Okla., for the past 16 years. Sheffield is an Oklahoma native and a graduate of Southwestern Seminary.

MBMC conducts first summer pastoral education program

Seven interns arrived at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center June 6 to begin 10 weeks of training in MBMC's first summer term Clinical Pastoral Education program. The CPE program is the only one of its kind in the state.

Program participants spend 10 weeks working and studying full-time at MBMC. The interns serve as on-call chaplains, visit patients, lead chapel worship services, attend seminars, complete a research project, and meet weekly with the CPE director, Jack Follis, supervisor of pastoral education and counseling at MBMC. At the end of the session the participants will be certified by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education.

"The CPE program's purpose is to sharpen and enhance the ministerial skills of the participants,"

said Follis. "The program helps in their 'ministry formation' as clergy in their respective denominations."

The seven interns currently participating in the program have come to MBMC from different parts of the United States, and represent several denominations. Hien Pham, originally from Vietnam, is Roman Catholic and in theological training in Chicago; Doug Deweese of Meridian is United Methodist; Lauri Gore of Grand Blanc, Mich., is Southern Baptist; Elaine Graves of Canton is a graduate of an interdenominational theology school; Dexter Ware of Crystal Springs, is Southern Baptist; Clifford Jernigan of Jackson is Baptist; and Jim Cooper of Patterson, La., is Southern Baptist.

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Company," "Praise to the Trinity," "Til Millions Know," "Christmas Adoration" and "Room in the Inn." In addition to being a prolific composer, he is an arranger, orchestrator, singer, and conductor.

Retired Southern Baptist missionary W. Alvin Hatton, 73, who served for four decades in Brazil, died of leukemia July 16 in Warren, Ark. Appointed with his wife Catherine in 1947, Hatton began Royal Ambassador work in Brazil. He also was Brotherhood secretary for the Brazilian Baptist Convention for a number of years, and promoted Brotherhood and RA work throughout Brazil until 1975. They retired in 1988. His wife died in 1991. He is survived by his second wife, Frances Bampus, and four grown children.

David Carpenter has joined the staff of Mississippi Baptist Medical Center as director of the Fitness Center. Carpenter received his degree in fitness management from Mississippi State University in 1983. Carpenter served as director of health and fitness at the YMCA in Jackson before being employed as executive director of Central YMCA in Montgomery, Ala. in 1990.

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Homecomings

Mt. Zion, Oskyka: July 31; 156th homecoming; Sunday, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., Tom Sumrall, former pastor, speaker; Billy Ray Simmons of Progress, former pastor, will direct music; dinner on the grounds, noon; 1:30 p.m., former pastor recognition; 2 p.m., concert by the Southern Envoy Gospel Quartet, Hammond, La.

Big Springs, Brookhaven: July 31; 11 a.m.; Lannie Wilbourn, Brandon, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall at noon; 1:15 p.m. singing; Heart Felt Singers, Nola, guest singers; offering taken for cemetery upkeep.

Springhill, Roxie: July 31; 11 a.m.; Steve Purvis, Natchez, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds, noon; worship, 1:15 p.m.; Marvin Howard, Meadville, music; revivals services each night at 7 p.m., Aug. 1-5.

Antioch, Leakesville: July 31; morning services with Kenny Goff

preaching; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing led by Thomas Ray Hodges; Kenneth McLendon, pastor.

West Jackson, Jackson: July 31; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; covered dish in gym at noon; afternoon singing: Jack Nazary, Carthage, guest speaker; Mike Smith, Jackson, music; Teresa and Randall Saxton, Madison, instrumentalists; Larry Dunlap, pastor.

Forest Hill, Jackson: Aug. 7; services include Sunday School and morning worship with Rocky Henriques, Jackson, speaker; activities for the day will include a covered dish luncheon and afternoon memorial service and singing.

Hurley (Jackson): July 31; Pat Howell, Niceville, Fla., morning speaker; Hoovie Walker, Mobile, Ala., speaker for 1:30 p.m. service; Kenna Byrd, pastor.

Gulfport Heights, Gulfport: will celebrate its 40th anniversary on Aug. 14 with Hugh A. Martin as guest speaker. Dinner on the grounds will be served in fellowship hall, followed by an afternoon service of testimonies and singing. C.H. Stone Jr. is pastor.

Pontotoc Ministers/Church Staff Golf Tournament: will be held Aug. 1 at the Pontotoc Country Club. For further information call (601) 844-0675 (before 7 p.m.) or (601) 489-6361 (after 7).

First Church, Ridgeland, will celebrate its 47th anniversary on

Aug. 7. The time is 10 a.m. A covered dish luncheon will be served in fellowship hall. Guest speaker will be Joel Haire, Crystal Springs. Others on program include Lynn Madden, former music director.

Concord Church, Pelahatchie, will have a dedication day for its new organ and education building July 31, with high attendance in Sunday School at 10 a.m. Matt Buckles from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board will speak at the 11 a.m. worship service. Lunch will be served at noon in fellowship hall. LaVerne Summerlin is pastor.

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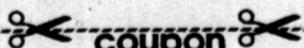
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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Revival Dates

Everett, Mendenhall: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mack Harrison and Trent Sullivan, Magee, evangelists; Archie Kemp, Mendenhall, music; William A. McWilliams, pastor.

Mt. Zion, Independence: July 31-Aug. 3; services, noon and 7:30 p.m.; Angel Martinez, Ft. Smith, Ark., evangelist; Pete Nunez, Dallas, music; Rick Burton, pastor.

Fellowship, Mathiston: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Hal Selby, Starkville, evangelist; Bobbie Dewberry, Mathiston, music; Ralph Cain, pastor.

Mt. Gilead, Meridian: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 10:45 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Carlos Evans Jr., evangelist; Jerry Hooks, Meridian, music; James Keith Smith, pastor.

Shady Grove, Batesville: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, regular services, Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Don Standfill, director of missions, Lafayette-Marshall Association, evangelist; Jerry Perkins, Batesville, music; John Stewart, pastor.

Branch (Scott): July 31-Aug. 3; services, 7:30 p.m.; Tim Robertson, evangelist; Norman Huggins, music; James Watts, pastor.

Crowder (North Delta): Aug. 7-12; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Randy Bostick, Corinth, evangelist; Terry Hurt, Tupelo, music; Harvey Sewell, pastor.

Society Hill, Oakvale: Aug. 8-12; Richard Crapps, Thomasville, N.C., evangelist; Dudley Williamson, music; Glen Nelson, pastor.

Antioch (Jasper): July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, worship, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds and 1:30 p.m. singing; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; C.C. Richie Jr., Houlka, evangelist; Jim Pender, pastor.

Goodwater (Lauderdale):

July 31-Aug. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch in fellowship hall, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gordon H. Sansing, Vicksburg, evangelist; Philip Duke, music.

Gum Grove, Brookhaven: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m., and Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James Sanders, Greenville, evangelist; Curtis Hatcher, Greenville, music; David Fortenberry, pastor.

Bay Springs (Kemper): July 31-Aug. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. fellowship after evening worship; 7:30 p.m. nightly; David Grisham, Ackerman, evangelist; David and Mona DeWease, Collinsville, music; Paul Oglesbee, pastor.

Briar Hill, Florence: July 31-Aug. 4; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Jack Moore, Collierville, Tenn., evangelist; Gene Hubbard, Magee, music; Malcolm Pinion, pastor.

Ludlow (Scott): July 31-Aug. 5; Pete Tebo, evangelist; Dwight Cooper, music; Bettye Powell, pianist; Ronnie Jones, pastor; lunch served in fellowship hall on Sunday; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.

Bethany, State Springs: July 31-Aug. 5; Truman D. Scarborough, Coffeeville, evangelist; Cris Brown, Bruce, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Henry E. Hight, pastor.

Victory, Bassfield: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and lunch at noon; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Milton Scott, evangelist; Dallas Rayburn, music; June Miles, pianist.

Holcomb, Grenada: July 31-Aug. 3; Sunday, 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; John Bramlett, Memphis, evangelist; Wilton Neal, North Carrollton, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

First, Terry: July 31-Aug. 3; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. each day; Jerry Pitts, chaplain at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Neb., evangelist; Johnny Speedling, Terry, and Graham Smith,

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, music; Gowan Ellis, pastor.

Gatesville (Copiah): Aug. 3-7; Wed.-Sat., 7:30 p.m.; The Sims Brothers Gospel Group will be in concert on Sat. night; Sunday, 11 a.m. with dinner on the grounds; Phil Mullins, evangelist; Roland Dear, music; Millard Mackey, pastor.

Bond, Philadelphia: Aug. 7-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Leeron Green, Clinton, evangelist; Jimmy Cumberland, music; Tammy Smith, pianist; D.W. Green, pastor.

Burns, Raleigh: Aug. 7-9; Sunday 11 a.m., fellowship luncheon, 1:30 p.m. service; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Bill Hudson, Belzoni, evangelist; Marion Felton, Lake, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Aug. 7-10; Gerald Martin, Vicksburg, evangelist; Terry Busby, Vicksburg, music; Sunday, 10:55 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bryan Abel, pastor.

Union Hall, Brookhaven: Aug. 14-17; Daryl Oster, evangelist, and Tony Hinton, music, Zion Hill, (Copiah); Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, afternoon service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joel Brister, pastor.

Calvary, Forest: July 31-Aug. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7:30 nightly; Rusty Craig, Conover, N.C., evangelist; John Ladd, Forest, music; Martin Williams, pastor.

Bethany, Prentiss: July 31-Aug. 5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds, no night services; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Gary Strehlow, Lucedale, evangelist; Frank Nix, Picayune, music; Darren Wigington, pastor.

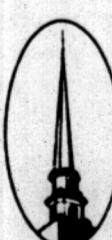
First, Purvis: homecoming, July 31; worship, 11 a.m.; noon luncheon; afternoon service, 1:30; revival, Aug. 1-3, 12 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Harold O'Chester, Austin, Texas, evangelist; women's services with Barbara O'Chester, 6 p.m. daily; Louis Nicolosi, pastor.

AMF will meet August 12

The Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF) will hold its summer meeting Aug. 12 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch will be served.

Three agricultural missionaries will be the featured speakers: Harold Watson of Forrest County, missionary to the Philippines; Sam Harper, veterinarian and missionary to Peru; and Dennis McCall, Vicksburg native, missionary to Burundi.

For more information, contact Gene Triggs at (601) 355-7824. Jim Watson is AMF president.



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Shady Grove Church, Panola Association, presented the "Trail of Treasures" program Sunday, June 12, to kick off its Vacation Bible School. Wayne Lawrence (left to right), Amy Perkins, Kiska Creamer, Brittany Holliday, Courtney McGregor, and Aleshia Bailey all participated in the program. The church had a total enrollment of 155, including adults, and five professions of faith. John Stewart is pastor; Tracey Pierce was VBS director.



The Vacation Bible School of First Church, Clinton, recently collected 330 pounds of coins, totalling \$1,062.71, for mission causes through the Cooperative Program. This amount compares with \$289.76 in 1993. Grades 1, 3, and 5 competed against grades 2, 4, and 6 to bring in the most money by weight each day. Some of those who participated in VBS are pictured, left to right: front row, Lisa Traweek, Brittany Stribling, Melissa Hampton, Lon Holloway; second row, Emily Lassiter, Michelle Glaze, Mary Bobo, Erin Mayo, Gates Crisler; back row, Christy Jordan, Kristen Warren, and Jennifer Smith.

Okla. board recommends adjusting its gifts to CP

OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Citing rising expenses, a lean staff and a stagnant economy resulting in decreased income from the churches, the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma's board of directors voted in a special called meeting July 12 to recommend a change in the percentage of Cooperative Program receipts going to the Southern Baptist Convention.

Directors unanimously approved a 1995 Cooperative Program objective of \$17.45 million that sends 40% of receipts to SBC causes and keeps 60% in Oklahoma for state missions needs. In 1992, messengers to the state convention approved a budget that lowered the division to 42%, also down two percentage points.

The board also approved the budget itself, three items related to budget overages and underages, and the state mission offering goal.

Alan Day, pastor of First Church of Edmond, chairman of

the administrative committee, presented the recommended budget, which must be approved by messengers in November.

Lawrence Cox, director of missions for Johnston-Marshall Association, questioned lowering the SBC percentage when the Foreign Mission Board and Home Mission Board already are experiencing shortages.

Day agreed the timing seemed to be bad, but noted the BGCO already has made cutbacks for several years and cannot make more cuts without seriously jeopardizing programs provided for the churches.

"We only have two ways to get more income," Day said. "We need the churches to send more money, or we need to change the formula."

Cox asked if the reduction is critical for the state convention to survive. Day replied the BGCO would find a way to survive without the change, but it would make things more difficult.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Editor's Note: The Pen Pal Club will be taking a three-month leave of absence from the pages of **The Baptist Record**. Pen Pals may continue to mail their letters to **The Baptist Record**, and they will be held for publication when The Pen Pal Club resumes. However, readers may look forward to the monthly Children's Page.

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Candi Cornelius. I'm 11 years old. I'm going to be in the 6th grade at Kossuth Elementary. I attend Glendale Baptist Church. I am a Christian. My hobbies include swimming, singing, riding my 4-wheeler, talking on the phone, and reading. I would like a boy or girl to write me. I will be sure to write back. My address is Rt. 10, Box 16BW, Corinth, MS 38834.

Candi Cornelius

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Blaire Myrick. My hobbies are reading, swimming, and skating. I'm 7 years old and fixing to be in the 2nd grade. I'd like lots of pen pals. I don't care how old you are. Please write to me at 17406 Landon Rd., Gulfport, MS 39503.

Blaire Myrick

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hello, my name is Amanda Hawn, my last name is German. I am 13, in the 7th grade, and go to Guntown Middle School. I also am a member of Mayfield Church of Christ in Saltillo. I like swim-



ming, skating, riding bikes, collecting pencils, and writing and reading letters. My address is Rt. 3, Box 123, Saltillo, MS 38866.

Amanda Hawn

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Melissa Johnson. I am 14 and in the 7th grade. I am a member of First Baptist Church. I like reading, swimming, biking, listening to music, jumping on my trampoline, and writing and reading letters. My address is Rt. 3, Box 115-A, Saltillo, MS 38866.

Melissa Johnson

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hello. My name is Bryan Cook. I'm going into the 6th grade. I'm 11 years old. My birthday is Jan. 24. My hobbies are playing the trumpet, baseball, and basketball. I go to Souenlovie Baptist Church. A boy or girl can write to me at 2323 County Rd.

660, Quitman, MS 39355.
Bryan Cook

Dear Pen Pal Club:

My name is Alex Triplett. I'm 10. My hobbies are baseball, riding my bike, and riding on my go-cart. I'm going into the 5th grade. My address is Rt. 2, Box 146-7A, West Point, MS 39773. Please send a picture.

Alex Triplett

Dear Pen Pal Club:

Hi! My name is Clint Spell. I am 10 years old. I will be 11 on July 28. I am going to the 6th grade in school. I am a Christian and go to First Baptist of Ridgeland. My hobbies are playing football and Nintendo. I would like a boy or girl to be my pen pal. If you have a photo, please send it. My address is 141 Lake Harbor, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

Clint Spell

ATS wants to follow-up on SWBTS

By Herb Hollinger

FORT WORTH (BP) — The major accrediting association for theological schools has asked for a second visit to Southwestern Seminary in the wake of the firing of President Russell H. Dilday Jr. in March.

The Association of Theological Schools recently sent a letter to Southwestern advising the school that a "follow-up" visit this fall is planned, according to Nancy Merrill, a spokesperson for ATS. It would follow a May visit by an ATS team to the Fort Worth campus that resulted from the March 9 firing of the president.

However, William B. Tolar, acting seminary president, said the seminary will ask the ATS to postpone the fall visit until next

spring. Tolar said with the seminary trustees voting on a new president July 28, and the regular board of trustees meeting in October, the spring 1995 period would give the trustees and a new president time to get ready for the visit.

ATS issued a written rebuke in March to the trustees viewing "with utmost seriousness... such precipitous action (by the trustees)... a clear violation of accepted governance practices and places in jeopardy the vitality and

basic integrity of the institution."

At that time, James L. Waits, executive director of ATS, asked the trustees to rescind the action firing Dilday.

Hollinger is director of Baptist Press.

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Uniform God is with us



By Richard Bradley
Exodus 25, 29, 40

Is God really present with his people? Sometimes we feel so alone that we wonder at the reality of this statement. However, the clear message of the Bible is that if we feel distant from God, it wasn't God who moved but us. God's explicit desire is to be where his people are, right at the very center of their lives and the very focus of their existence. Unfortunately, we often reserve the place of honor for ourselves and not for the God who alone deserves it.

God's requirements for a sanctuary (25:1-8). God instructed Moses to receive an offering from the people to be used to build a sanctuary (*miqdash*, "holy place") so that God might dwell in their midst. The offering that was to be received was to be a free-will offering. It was not to be forced, but it was to be from the heart and freely offered (v. 2). We ought to feel a certain duty and responsibility to give, but our gifts ought to also be given cheerfully from hearts of love. We give, not because we are duty bound, but because we love the Lord.

Further, the materials that were to be received in the offering were to be of the finest order. Clearly, this was not to be a shoddy effort. God's inventory of required building supplies is shocking for a people who have just escaped slavery. Yet, God never asks anyone to do anything they can't do with his help. When we have first given ourselves to God we will have no trouble giving our best to God!

God's requirements for sacrifice (29:42-44). The holy place was to be both a place of worship and sacrifice. It was to be a place of worship because God would be there. We cannot help but worship anytime we truly sense the presence of the Almighty. Could this be why worship comes so hard for so many on the Lord's Day? The Tabernacle was to be a place of sacrifice because sin separates us from God and sacrifice alone atones for sin. Ultimately, the sacrifices of the Old Testament would be fulfilled in the atoning death of Jesus Christ. The fact that the people were commanded by God to bring only their best to be sacrificed underscores both the seriousness of sin and our responsibilities under the terms of biblical stewardship.

God's presence among the people (29:45-46). Of all the wonderful promises displayed in God's Word, surely this is one of the greatest. God has promised to dwell among his people. Through good times and bad, through thick and thin, God is there. When we are on top of the world or when we are in the pits of despair, God is there. The psalmist David recognized the impossibility of escaping the God who always knows and is always there (Ps. 139).

This passage is a wonderful reminder of God's involvement in our lives. Deists believe that after creation God stood back and is simply letting things take their natural course without his involvement. Nothing could be further from biblical truth! This awesome passage reminds us that God is intimately involved in the events of our lives. He hasn't left us to our own devices and capabilities. Once he becomes the central focus of our lives, thereafter, he stays with us to the end (Matt. 28:20).

God's glory in the Tabernacle (40:33c-38). As tangible proof that God was present with his people, he provided the cloud to cover the Tabernacle and to guide the people on their journeys. How exciting and reassuring for the Hebrews to witness such an event. I am sure that many discouraged Hebrews had their spirits raised by witnessing the presence of God among his people.

There is no cloud today, but God is still with his people. No cloud fills the sanctuary, but the Holy Spirit resides within all believers testifying to the involvement of God in their lives. In Old Testament times God's Spirit came upon his people on special occasions to equip them for special service. Today, God's Spirit is a constant source of love, encouragement, and strength for all who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

Bradley is pastor, Hardsboro Church, Gulfport.

Bible Book Job defends his innocence



By Raymond Kolb
Job 29-37

Oh, for the good ole days! As Job continues to speak, he remembers the time when he was strong and healthy, when he sensed an intimate relationship with God, when he had an abundance of the best of material blessings, when he was highly respected by young and old alike, when great leaders sought his counsel. He remembers helping the poor, the widows, the orphans, the blind, the lame, and even strangers or foreigners who came his way. He remembered having all his children around him. How wonderful it would be to enjoy those blessings again!

In verses 29:18-20, Job shows some of the weakness of his theology, which in reality agrees with that of his friends. Also, his pride begins to show quite clearly, a common fault most of us still have to fight today. He seems to think — since he has been so good — that he really deserves the best for the rest of his life and that he should be able to live a happy, healthy life to a ripe old age with the same respect he formerly enjoyed.

But Job was not able to bring back the good ole days just by wishing for them. Who can? Was Job able to enjoy some pleasant memories? Or, were his suffering and confusion too great for that? Chapter 30 shows Job in utter dismay as he feels that everyone — friend and foe, young and old, and even God himself — has turned completely against him.

The writer of the drama presents an interesting situation in Chapter 31. It seems that Job is placing himself under oath before the judgment seat of God and then challenging God to point out anything in his conduct that merits such punishment as he is enduring. In his defense we find some of the highest ethical and moral standards to be found anywhere in the Old Testament. Let me suggest that you circle the word "if" in your Bible each time it is found in this chapter. Then read it to see what standards Job used to judge himself and to defend himself before God. Verses 26-28 apparently refer to worship of the sun or moon, a type of idolatry often practiced in ancient times. Job claims innocence in this and all other possible charges mentioned. Then in verse 35 Job seems to say, "I rest my case."

Now, what are the charges? And what is the verdict?

As often happens today, God refuses to follow any human timetable to give his answers. Job must wait much longer than he wants to wait for God's answer. Also, for a change, Job's three friends are silent.

Another young man, Elihu, seems to have been present during all the debate between Job and his three friends. Until now he has been silent. He was young and respected the age, experience, and wisdom of the older men. But now he can wait no longer. He lashes out first at the three friends of Job for condemning him so strongly while being unable to prove him guilty. Then he condemns Job's attitude in accusing God of being unfair. God is far greater than man. He does no wrong. He is completely just. Don't rebel against him. Elihu points out weaknesses in the arguments of the three friends and also in those of Job. It is interesting to note in the last chapter of the book that the Lord reprimands severely the three friends but does not reprimand Elihu. Perhaps Elihu had learned a lot by listening carefully to all the others had to say and seeing the weaknesses of their reasoning. Certainly he noticed the bitterness in their attitudes as they attacked their old friend, Job, while he was down and suffering. On the other hand, he still believed in the goodness and justice of God and made that his theme as he spoke. He tries to get Job to recognize his mistake in claiming that God refuses to answer him. He points out that God does speak to man in various ways, sometimes in a dream or a vision. Sometimes it is even through suffering that God frees man of his sin of pride and draws him into a closer relationship with himself.

Kolb is a retired missionary living in Clinton.

Life and Work Sinful yet reconciled



By Ruth Allen
2 Corinthians 5, 6

A story is told of a pastor who had one saint who felt it her responsibility to constantly find fault with him. It really did not matter what the minister did; it was never right. She openly and persistently criticized him. For a long time he tried to ignore her criticism, but one day while doing some pastoral visitation, it began to weigh heavily on his mind. "Surely," he thought, "I must try to work out our differences. This matter must be solved for the well-being of the church."

The pastor drove to her home, went to the door, and boldly knocked. There was no answer. This concerned and determined pastor went to the side door and knocked again. Still no answer! Not to be outdone, he went back to the front door and with great force knocked loudly. No one came to the door, but the pastor knew someone was at home. In utter exasperation, he dropped down on one knee and did something he had never done before. He put his eye to the keyhole to look inside. He saw the eye of the woman looking back at him. She opened the door. They discussed their differences, and made some progress toward reconciliation. As the pastor was leaving, he said, "Isn't it ironic that both of us had to get down on our knees before we could begin to see each other eye to eye?"

Reconciliation means to "be received into God's favor." Receiving his favor means that he does not hold the individual responsible for his trespasses. God has come down to all mankind in the form of his son, Jesus Christ. Even though we are still sinners, he has taken our faith in him and has counted it to us for righteousness. Upon man's being reconciled, God has commanded that he carry the message of reconciliation to all people of all nations.

The message of reconciliation is published abroad because of the constraining love of Jesus. Dwight L. Moody, a noted preacher, told of two brothers who had a quarrel and refused to speak to each other. The mother did all she could to reconcile them, but to no avail. The situation greatly distressed her and robbed her of peace and happiness. One of the brothers saw how his mother felt and was sorry for her. Hoping to please her, he bought her a fine gift. She refused it. "I don't want any gift," she said, "until you have reconciled with your brother." So it is with God. Many bring gifts to God but have hatred in their hearts toward others and yet profess great love for God. The greatest gift one can give God is to share the message of reconciliation with someone who needs to know of his love.

As we know Jesus, we are held in the powerful grip of his love which exerts a force upon us and compels us to yield to his love. Paul states in verse 15 "that they which live should not live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again." Salvation should not be received and kept to oneself; it must be shared with all people.

Someone has well said, "If a person once gets a good look at Jesus, he will never be the same again." Surely this was true of Paul. Before Paul had most likely seen Jesus in the flesh, he viewed him with scorn as he went about persecuting the Christians, but Paul seeing Jesus in a different light, began a new life. From the moment Jesus revealed himself to Paul on the Damascus road to the time of his departure from this world, Paul led a new life. Paul's life was a living dramatization of his own words — "If any one be in Christ, he is a new creation, old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (v. 17). Truly, he was a new creation in Christ, and so is the Christian! Hence, we love him and share the message of reconciliation.

"So, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (v. 20). As God's ambassadors, we have become *persona grata*, being personally acceptable and welcome to others. God has received us into his kingdom and has given us a message; he has provided the means of salvation. We must deliver the message of reconciliation, which is "to be received into God's favor." Pray for God to lead Christians to a soul needing reconciliation with God or with someone else. Share the message today!

Allen lives in Jackson.

capsules

WORK PERMIT PROBLEMS IMPERIL BAPTIST MISSION

WORK IN ZAMBIA: LUSAKA, Zambia (BP) — Southern Baptist mission work in Zambia faces serious disruption or even suspension following aggressive action by Zambia Baptist convention leaders to have missionaries' work permits denied. After months of appeals and negotiations, a decision by the Zambia immigration office June 17 not to renew work permits for missionaries Joe and Gloria Turman and Lonnie and Fran Turner led the Baptist Mission of Zambia to file a legal appeal June 22. The Turners are from Tyler, Texas, and Brownsville, Tenn., respectively. The Turners are from Harlan, Ky. The Zambian government may allow missionaries with expired work permits to remain in the country during the appeals process. However, the government has yet to make this ruling, said area mission officials. The central issue in the dispute is the convention's request to approve all renewals of work permits for Southern Baptist missionaries, although the mission is a separate legal entity registered with the Zambian government. Unlike most other African countries where Southern Baptist missionaries work, the Zambia mission has for years sought convention approval for any new missionaries assigned to Zambia. But renewal of permits for established missionaries has never been a part of the working agreement with Zambian Baptists.

RIDGECREST REORGANIZATION, DOWNSIZING ARE ANNOUNCED: RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Reorganization to reduce operating costs and enhance marketing and conference services at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center have been announced, to be effective Aug. 1. Changes will result in the deletion of 14 positions, four management and 10 support staff. Three of the 14 positions currently are vacant. Of the 11 affected employees one will take early retirement and 10 will receive severance benefits and outplacement assistance. "These changes have been made necessary by the financial realities of a 10-year decline in summer attendance," said G.W. Lankford, director of Ridgecrest. "While our non-summer attendance has remained stable, the decline in summer guests represents a major loss in income. These actions will reduce expenses now and poised us for future growth both in guests and in revenues," he said.

BROADMAN & HOLMAN TO DISTRIBUTE 'CHRISTY,' BILLY GRAHAM VIDEOS: NASHVILLE (BP) — Broadman & Holman Publishers has gained exclusive distribution rights to home video versions of a recent CBS television hit and more than 100 movies produced by Billy Graham's World Wide Pictures. The two-hour premiere of "Christy," based on the best-selling novel by the late Catherine Marshall, will be released to the home video market by B&H in October, according to spokesman Harold King. The 96-minute pilot originally aired on CBS in April, capturing a major share of the American television audience. In a separate development, B&H officials also announced they have been granted exclusive distribution rights to the current catalog of videos from evangelist Billy Graham's World Wide Pictures. Since the early 1950s, WWP has produced more than 100 Christian films, including well-known titles such as "The Hiding Place," "Joni," and "The Prodigal." Viewed by more than 100 million people around the world, the films have been shown in a variety of locations, including movie theaters, church sanctuaries, prisons, and even in remote jungle locations. The most recent feature film to be added to the WWP catalog is "Eye of the Storm" starring Connie Sellecca ("Hotel," "Greatest American Hero") and Jeff Conaway ("Taxi," "Grease"). The video, which is also available in Spanish, will be released in July.

HUNGRY TANZANIANS FIND BREAD OF LIFE: SHINYANGA, Tanzania — Southern Baptist missionaries recently delivered food to about 12,500 hungry people in 25 villages of Tanzania. As a result of evangelism conducted alongside the feeding, churches report 641 new Christian believers have been baptized — with many more expected. "It was a joy to help people at a time of physical hunger," said missionary Terry Jones. "It was a greater joy seeing them accept the 'bread of life.'"

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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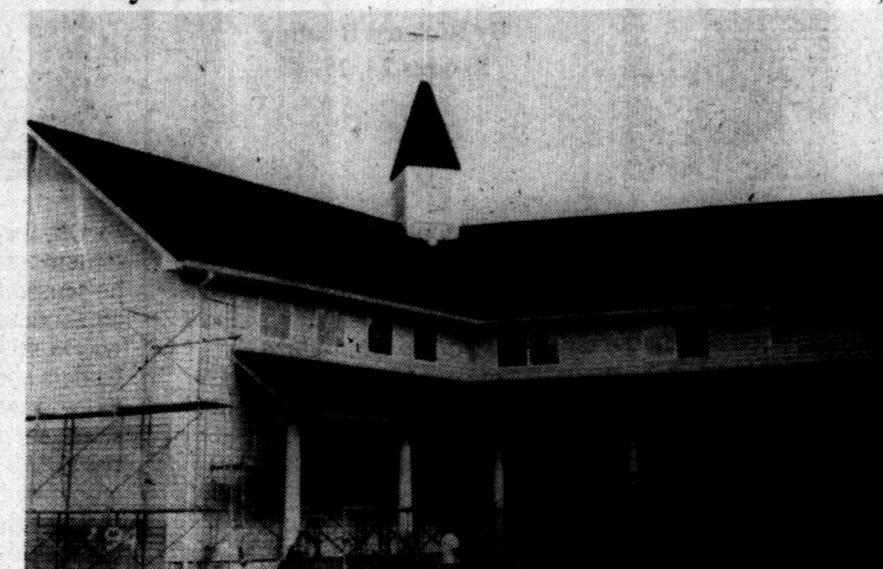
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VIZS AQF: NWZC

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Hosea Six: One.

Mississippi teams were key to building 2 Japanese churches

By Teresa Dickens



Volunteers from 17 Mississippi Baptist churches built a new building (above photo) for a Baptist church near Hiroshima, Japan. The area left of the steep is the sanctuary; to the right is the fellowship/recreation area, lower level, and pastorum, upper level. Joe Heranney (lower photo, left) and Jesse White were among those who put the finishing touches on the new building.

The first team of volunteers, led by Joe Dickerson of Lucedale, spent Feb. 16-March 30 on the site. The team began by unpacking the supplies. When they left, the building's exterior walls and roof were complete. The team accomplished all they were assigned to do, said Dickerson, despite harsh weather conditions, including snow flurries.

The second team picked up where the first team stopped. Led by Joe Heranney of Hollandale, the team spent April 1-May 10 on the site. When they left, the building was ready for carpet to be laid.

The teams' "home" while in Japan was the congregation's old church and pastorum. (The pastor and his family moved in with other family members so the volunteers could stay there.) The couples were assigned to the house's two bedrooms while the other volunteers slept on pallets downstairs. The house had one bathroom!

A typical day for the builders started at 5 a.m. By 7 a.m., the team was on the work site and stayed there until 5 p.m. Once back "home," the team members cleaned up, ate dinner, held a devotional/prayer time, and went to bed. Weekends included sightseeing on Saturday and worship with the Japanese church on Sunday.

Both Dickerson and Heranney described the project as "a good experience," recalling the warm

fellowship they had with the people despite the language barrier.

Dickerson remembers especially the relationship his team developed with a local electrician who worked on the project. "We could not communicate well verbally, but we had a good time together."

Noting that he was not a church member, Dickerson added, "I hope he became more interested in the church because of us."

In addition to Dickerson, members of the first team were Hiriam Powell, Mendenhall; Kenneth Briggs, Blue Springs; Lamar and Ann Callahan, Meridian; O.K. Carr, Natchez; David and Pat Selvy, Lambert; Sammy Platt III, Columbus; Randy Dees, Kilmichael; Wayne Crenshaw, Pelahatchie; and Fred Kinsey, Monroe, Mich.

Heranney was joined by his wife Catherine; Sam Dees, Hollandale; Cecil Lee, Yazoo City; Olif Matthews, Florence; Charles Hughes, Natchez; E.L. and Theo Bennett, Cleveland; Simurd Thorn, Fulton; Jesse White, Cleveland; Dan Butler and Joe Crow Jr., both of Vicksburg.

The Mississippi teams' work in Japan was only the beginning of a construction partnership with

Japan. Other teams have been assigned for later this year and have been requested for early 1995.

For more information, contact the Brotherhood Commission, 1548 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104; phone (901) 272-2461.

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